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November 21, 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. (VFCA) is submitting this letter to indicate its action to endorse the Consensus Plan as submitted by Nextel. The Consensus Plan is the only long-term solution available to remedy present and future radio frequency interference for public safety. This is submitted with the utmost urgency as the lives of first responders and citizens are at stake every day as a result of these interference issues.

The VFCA believes that this is the quickest way to provide additional spectrum for public safety at no expense to public safety agencies or taxpayers.

The VFCA endorses the proposed plan with stipulations requesting two points be considered regarding the Consensus Plan which are:

- 1. Nextel pays the entire cost for programming/replacement of public safety radios regardless of the dollar amount.***
- 2. A simple system be established that will allow public safety agencies to utilize the funds necessary to make the transition without any out of pocket/up front expense.***

Thank you for your consideration on this very critical issue.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Carter
President